Automatic toll plazas

*489. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced its decision to install sophisticated equipment for automatic toll calculation and deduction for the upcoming toll roads;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal along with the total cost to be incurred in this regard; and

(c) the estimated financial benefits likely to accrue from installation of the said equipment?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) It has been decided to install Modern Toll Collection Systems at 14 important toll plaza locations between Delhi-Mumbai, Panipat-Jalandhar and Delhi-Agra sections as a pilot project for which tenders have been invited.

Following subsystems form part of the integrated Modern Toll Collection Systems:

- Automatic Vehicle Counter cum Classifier (AVCC)
- Automatic Boom Barrier
- ETC (Electronic Toll Collection)
- Contactless Smart Card Systems
- User Fare Display Unit
- Lane Controller
- Barcode reader
- Close Circuit Television System
- Traffic Light System
- Over Head Lane Signs
- Intercom System

The approximate cost of implementation of Modern Toll Collection Systems at each Toll Plaza location would be Rs.3 crores.

(c) The following financial benefits are expected to accrue from implementing Electronic Toll Collection Systems:

(i) Better Revenue collection

(ii) Improvement in transparency of financial transactions

(iii) Better user convenience with facility for non-stop payment and time savings

(iv) Reduction in vehicular emission and environmental improvement

(v) Reduction in toll plaza operating costs

(vi) Enhancement in audit control on fee collection by centralizing user accounts

Punjabi news unit, Jalandhar

*490. DR. M.S. GILL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since 1966, Punjab does not have fully staffed and empowered Punjabi News Unit at Jalandhar and poor quality Punjabi News are fed to Jalandhar from Chandigarh UT and Delhi; and

(b) is this the policy for all States of the country?

THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) (i) As far as AIR is concerned, there is no Regional News Unit (RNU) at Jalandhar and, therefore, there is no question of understaffing. In any case, quality of Punjabi News fed to AIR, Jalandhar is of good quality.

(ii) Doordarshan has a Jalandhar News Unit, which is adequately staffed. Quality of Punjabi News from Jalandhar is of good quality.

(b) AIR and Doordarshan Stations, which do not have RNUs, broadcast the news produced by the other RNUs in the State.

Stand on Nepal's political development

*491. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have failed to present the nation's cohesive stand on Nepal's recent political development;

(b) if not, the details of India's position thereon;